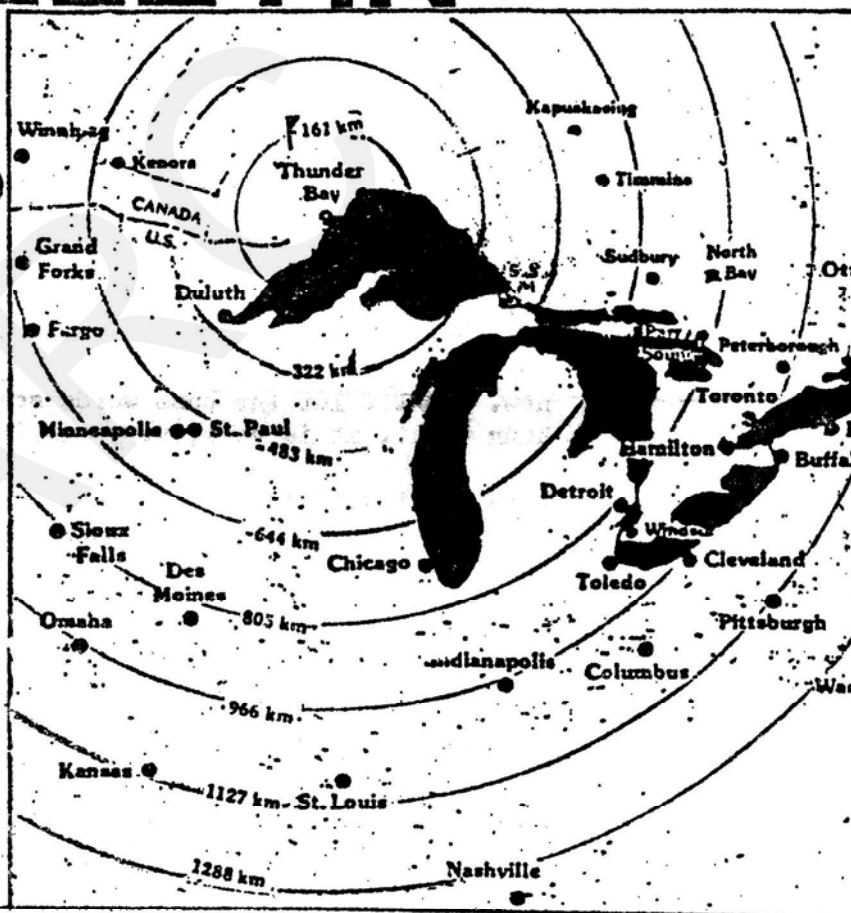


HI-Q

Apr 87

LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB BULLETIN



REPEATERS

TBR 146.82

YQT 147.06

FOUNDED 1934

CLUB STATION

VE3FW

INCORPORATED 1979

PACKET RADIO IN THUNDER BAY

Packet Radio. two words that strike fear in the hearts of men, and send even long time amateurs running for cover. "Its way too complicated... I'll never understand how it works." The purpose of this article is to clear up a lot of confusion surrounding this new mode of communication, and once you get over your initial fears, its not all that difficult to understand or use.

A good nanalogy to what happended with packet would be two meters and repeaters, which we all understand thoroughly (?) and enjoy emmensly. Consider this: If before you heard anything about two meters and repeaters, all the magazines talked about modulation, deviation, modulation acceptance bandwidth, duplexers and the like, would you want to try and figure out what they were talking about? Probably not. Instead, chances are pretty good that once you saw (or heard) the excellent audio quality, heard about autopatch, reasonable range and its huge popularity, it was time to find a rig ASAP. I NEED ONE!

In the same repect, packet got off to a bad start, but it has a lot to offer. Consider this. It offers error-free communications, as well as the ability to leave a message to another operator, even though his or her station may be unattended at the time. As well, through the use of packet repeaters called digipeaters, it offers a lot more range for a lot less money from your run of the mill two meter rig. I will get into this in a bit more detail later in this article. Naturally, there are a few ne 'buzz words' to learn, but that is the case with anything new. Dont't let the buzz words scare you - once you get the hang of it, it is very, very simple.

Lets start with the basics - what equipment do you need to operate on packet? Well, first of all, you need a computer - almost any computer will do. If you do not have a computer, a 'computer terminal' of some sort will do the trick. This is how you 'talk'... you type in commands and messages, and you get your reply on the screen. All your computer does is give you a keyboard to type on, and a device (the CRT) to get your reply on (it forms the link between you and the TNC).

Next comes a little black box (it not really black, but whats inside matter - it works, and thats all we need to know) called a TNC or Terminal Node Controller. Its job is to connect your computer to the radio. Period. (It does a lot more too, but since it takes palce automatically, we can ignore what it is doing.... it works.)

All thats left is a radio. What kind you ask? Almost anything will do. If you would like to try two meters, punch in 145.010 Mhz FM, and hook up your computer and TNC, and you are all set. On HF, 14,103 Mhz is where the 'packetters' hang out. For our purposes, I will stick with two meters - no need to confuse the issue.

Now comes the hard part - making a QSO. On packet, QSOs are referred to as 'connects' - as in 'my computer is connected to your computer'. To do this, you issue a connect command to the TNC. By the way, you enter your call into the TNC so it 'knows' who it is - it is a valid ID for DOC purposes, and it is used by others who wish to connect with your station. Anyway, you issue a 'connect' command to the TNC and it looks like the following 'C VE3TBU'. Thats it! If VE3TBU is 'on the air', you will get a message back on your screen saying 'CONNECTED TO VE3TBU'. Anything you now type in will appear on the screen at VE3TBU, and anything typed in at VE3TBU will appear on your screen! Its as simple as that!

Now for a few more commands. Read the following carefully - it is a bit difficult to understand at first. ANY STATION THAT IS ON THE AIR CAN BE USED AS A PACKET REPEATER OR 'DIGIPEATER'. Got that? For example, since VE3TBU is on the air all the time you can use it as a packet repeater or digipeater anytime. As well, since I have left my station on the air all the time, you can use it as a digipeater as well. If you are used to working FM voice repeaters, it may be a bit hard to understand how both my station and the digipeater VE3TBU can be on the same frequency at the same time, both acting as digipeaters; and things work fine. The reason for this is that to use a station as a digipeater, you must "tell" your TNC to use a particular station.

This works with a routing command called 'VIA'. In other words, you wish to connect to another station via my station. It works as follows. Suppose I wish to connect with VE3XXX via VE3TBU. I would type in the following. "c VE3XXX VIA VE3TBU. My station will now send a signal to VE3TBU, telling it what I want to do. VE3TBU will repeat or digipeat this signal, then pass it along to VE3XXX. If VE3XXX is on the air, it will acknowledge the connection, send a signal back to VE3TBU, which will again act as a digipeater, then send it back to me. I will then see the 'CONNECTED TO...' message on my screen.

You can tandem digipeaters for greater range if you wish, but you must specify the route you wish your signal to go. You can even bounce your signal around a few times if you wish. This is done with the VIA command again. For example, let us assume you wish to connect to VE3FW, and go via VE3TBU and VE3CX, using them as digipeaters. You would type in the following 'C VE3FW VIA VE3TBU,VE3CX'. If all stations are on the air, after a short delay, you will get your 'CONNECTED TO...' message. You can now type in a message, and it will appear on the screen at VE3FW.

While I have simplified things a little (not much), thats about all you need to know to get on packet radio. There are a few more commands you can use, but for the most part, you can get by with the ones I have mentioned. To get a true feel for packet though, the best thing is to either see a packet station in operation, or better yet, pick up a TNC, hook it up, and you are ready to go! Its not hard at all!

If you are planning on purchasing a TNC, you will be happy to know that the Thunder Bay Area Repeater Systems digipeater VE3TBU is available 24 hours a day

and is operating on 145.010 Mhz, awaiting your packet signals.
As well, my station is also available for digipeating and connects
24 hours a day.

Packet radio is really catching on in alot of places. At least
50 stations in the Duluth area, 10 to 20 in the Upper Penninsula, and
at last count, we had 6 here in Thunder Bay, with a few more
people expressing an interest in it. The time has come to join the packet
revolution!

73

Tom - VE3CX

Welcome

Andy Weeks a former stent of the code and theory classes has
now become VE3WKS. Welcome to the ranks of amateur radio Andy
Andy we all look forward to greeting you on the air aswell.

Guess What!?

JSC is the new OPP dispatch, or at least he thinks he is. CX is in
love. The snow is always falling in DQR's shack. KRP dropped
in at the code and theory classes. OTV is redefining (well may
be modifying) Newton's Laws. OTZ: is talking from a car! OTC
has managed to stay in town another month. CK is looking to
become CK3W. And finally just for the record: XJ is not
an Amateur.

FOR SALE:

KENWOOD TS-830S, COMPLETE WITH MC 50 MICROPHONE AND SERVICE
MANUALS - \$800.00. HEATHKIT SB-220 LINEAR AMPLIFIER, WHICH
RUNS 2 3-500Z TUBES - \$600.00. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED CALL
TOM VE3CX at 767-1453 or 767-5751.

WEBSTERS DEFINITIONS:

AMATEUR-Devotee and admirer, one who engages in the pursuit,
study, science or sport as a pass time, rather than
as a profession. One lacking in experience and competence
in an art or science.

HAM-A licensed operator of an amateur radio station.

LET'S PUT THE HAM BACK INTO RADIO

TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING.

The questionair was completed by 35 club members at the last
GM and SG. No interpretation has been made other than a straight
percentage agree or disagreement.

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club
Questionnaire Results April 1987

RE-CLUB STATION

1. THE CLUB STATION IS SELDOM USED-----48% AGREE
2. THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF
THE CLUB STATION MANAGER ARE NOT
UNDERSTOOD-----63% AGREE
3. THERE IS NO INVENTORY OF ALL
CLUB EQUIPMENT-----56% DONT KNOW
4. I WOULD LIKE TO WORK PACKET FROM
THE CLUB STATION-----46% AGREE
5. THE CLUB STATION SHOULD BE USED ONE
NIGHT A WEEK TO OPERATE THE NORTHWESTERN
ONTARIO NET-----86% AGREE

RE-INDIVIDUAL OPERATING INTERESTS

1. CONTESTING IS MY MAIN INTEREST-----70% DISAGREE
2. I DONT ENJOY RTTY-----65% AGREE
3. I ENJOY HELPING WITH THE CHRISTMAS
MESSAGES-----42% AGREE
-----32% DISAGREE
4. FIELD DAY DOES NOT INTEREST ME-----72% DISAGREE
5. EMERGENCY CALL UP SHOULD BE AT LEAST
TWICE A YEAR-----76% AGREE
6. I WOULD LIKE A PROJECT NIGHT AT LEAST
ONCE A YEAR-----93% AGREE
7. A 2 METER FOX HUNT ONCE A YEAR-----86% AGREE

RE-CLUB MANAGEMENT

1. THE NEW EXECUTIVE SHOULD HAVE THEIR
FIRST MEETING WITH THE OLD EXECUTIVE--79% AGREE
2. I DONT WANT LONG SQUADELES AT CLUB
MEETINGS-----92% AGREE
3. ALL PHASES OF CLUB BUSINESS SHOULD
BE PROCESSED THRU COMMITTEE MEETINGS---55% AGREE
-----33% DISAGREE
4. HI-Q SHOULD ANNOUNCE THE NEXT MEETING
DATE AND THE FULL AGENDA-----86% AGREE
5. THE CLUB NEEDS A PROGRAM COMMITTEE---59% AGREE
6. A COMMITTEE SYSTEM WILL NOT WORK---68% DISAGREE
7. THE ROUND TABLE SHOULD BE DONE AWAY
WITH-----76% DISAGREE
8. PROGRAM SPEAKERS SHOULD TALK ON HAM
RADIO ONLY-----79% DISAGREE
9. 2 METERS IS ALL WE TALK ABOUT-----59% DISAGREE
10. LITTLE ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO
NEW HAMS-----62% AGREE
11. HAM CLASSES ARE A GREAT PROJECT-----86% AGREE
-----10% DISAGREE STRONGLY
12. CLUB MEETINGS ARE INTERESTING-----64% AGREE
13. I ENJOYED THE FEB DINNER MEETING-----48% AGREE
-----44% DONT KNOW

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CLUB DOES WELL

1. KEEPS YOU IN TOUCH WITH WHAT OTHER MEMBERS ARE DOING.
2. PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS.
3. CHRISTMAS MESSAGES.
4. EMERGENCY READINESS.
5. THE CLUB IS WELL ORGANIZED.
6. NEW HAM CLASSES ARE EXCELLENT.
7. MEMBERS ARE VERY SUPPORTIVE TO EACH OTHER.
8. COFFEE--DONUTS--TALK
9. HI-Q IS GREAT
10. A GOOD CLUB STATION
11. GOOD SOCIAL GATHERINGS.
12. ARGUE AT MEETINGS, FIGHT ON 2M and KEEP THE DOOR OF THE CLUB STATION LOCKED.
13. REPEATERS

WHAT DO YOU THINK CLUB MEMBERS COULD DO BETTER

1. MOST MEMBERS APPEAR TO BE DOING A FINE JOB.
2. SHOW UP AT MORE MEETINGS.
3. ORGANIZE EVENTS THAT WILL INVOLVE MOST OF THE MEMBERS.
4. MORE EQUIPMENT FOR THE CLUB STATION.
5. BECOME MORE ACTIVE ON ALL BANDS.
6. GET ALONG WITH EACH OTHER.
7. ENCOURAGE MORE NEW MEMBERS.
8. REALIZE THAT THIS CLUB IS FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE NOT THE BOARD FOR FOR THE I.T.T.
9. MORE INFO ON TVI AND HOW TO CLEAN UP A STATION.
10. REVIEW REGULATIONS WHEN LOCAL INFRACTIONS ARE EVIDENT.
11. PROMOTE ALL BANDS.
12. WE NEED A MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.
13. THINK BEFORE VOTING.
14. GREETING NEWCOMERS.
15. MORE TOLERANT OF BOTH YOUNGER AND OLDER MEMBERS POINTS OF VIEW.
16. HAVE A WEEKLY MEETING WHILE THE HAM COURSE IS ON.
17. OPEN THE CLUB ROOM MORE OFTEN.
18. COMPLAIN LESS AND HELP EACH OTHER MORE.

73 BOB VE3JAB

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73 BOB VE3JAB

I N
MEMORIAM



VE3KRO

DAN PERSON

SILENT KEY:

The ham community was saddened by the news of the sudden passing of Dan Person VE3KRU on March 13th. Dan was an active member of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club and was presently serving a term as one of the Directors of the club and had over the past years served in many other Executive capacities within the club. Dan took part in the many public service events that the club provides communications for, such as the Sibley Ski Tour (Check Point 5 won't be the same) and the Thunder Bay Auto Sport Club Ice Racing. He had helped with the recent Jeep International Snow mobile Race from Thunder Bay to St. Paul and could always be counted on to fill a Check Point for the various road races in the city. Dan was one of the few hams on AIV (Amateur Television) and you could always see the lights that decorated his tower during the Christmas Season when driving in the Current River area. He could always be relied upon to help with the Senior Citizens Christmas Message program. Dan was also active with the Lakehead Search and Rescue of Thunder Bay and had been a member of that organization for the past several years. He was presently serving his term as a Director and Head of the Radio Committee with that organization. Active also with the Boy Scouts of Canada, Dan was recently awarded the Medal of Merit for outstanding service to Scouting. Many was the time that I stopped and chatted with him while he worked at the Trout Lake Scout Camp. Dan was a past Scout Master for 7 years, Assistant District Commissioner, Port Arthur District for 4 years, Scout Co-ordinator for 2 years and District Commissioner, Port Arthur District for 5 years. Dan was instrumental in organizing the Scout's Rendez-Vous of the Voyageurs & Dan worked with the Scouts in organizing the Jamboree of the Air and unselfishly donated both his time and radio gear to this Amateur Radio/Scout event every year. Dan was employed as a mechanic for the past 30 years at Intercity Ford and was 52 years of age.

THE MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS MEETING MARCH 12, 1987.

Present were BBS, DCD, XT, NHX and JAB.

Discussed was.

Field Day @ Centennial Park

Purchase of TNCs

Longrange Planning committee.

THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING MARCH 15, 1987.

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted by AUP and seconded by LMV.

Discussed was.

The phone bill

Letter from the city on the Ski-doo Races

Letter from Walter Sitko Terrace Bay.

Post office Box payment.

Sibly Ski Tour.

Results of the Dinner Dance: There was a 120 dollar loss which accepted by ECV and AUP.

Financial Report was read. Balance of \$2920.29

Packet gear needed and numbers interest in purchasing.

Long Range Committee handed out questionnaires.

The ontario winter Games, Luge Races.

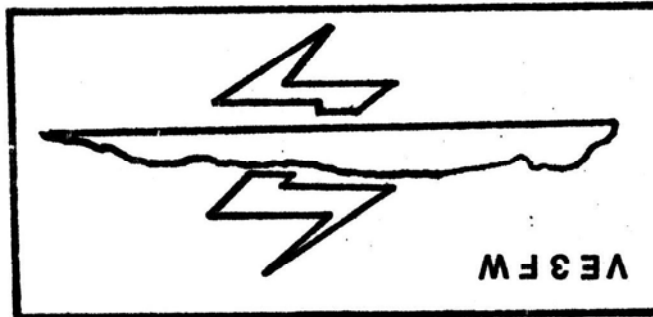
Field Day: There will be a meeting with Parks manager on the tentative site of the event.

A motion to Close was moved by JAB and seconded by JAJ.

50/50 Draw

The 50/50 draw was won this month by Les Harris VE3AYZ who was not present to claim his winnings. The pot grows once more; so dont miss this month's meeting!

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LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 2571
THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO
P7B 5G1



TO:

LINDO SCALESE VE3NHX
237 DENNIS STREET
THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO
P7B 5H7

HI-Q

FIRST CLASS